(c) whether the Industrial Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) loan to various power projects of substantial amount was cancelled in 1994; and

(d) if so, the reasons for non-utilisation of external assistance particularly in view of the resource crunch in the country; and

(e) the proposals of the Government to mobilise resources for these power projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI) : (a) to (e). The cumulative position of undisbursed balance of external assistance for power projects for the last three years was as follows:

(Rs. in crores)

Year ended 31st March	Total External Assistance
1993-94	28160
1994-95	18899
1995-96	18412

The loans are sanctioned for a particular project which take few years for completion and hence the external assistance is spent over a period ot time. Hence the loans include external assistance for projects which still have several years of utilisation period left. Therefore, undisbursed balance would exist at all points of time.

During 1993-94, the World Bank cancelled loan for Karnataka-I & II (US $ 468 million) due to non-compliance of loan covenants established by the World Bank with the project implementing agencies. The State Government of Karnataka have made alternative funding arrangements for these projects. The loans for Farakka II (US $ 22 million), Talcher Thermal (US $ 8 million) and National Capital Power (US $ 35 million) were also cancelled in 1993-94 as these loans could not be utilised due to savings. These projects have since been completed.

The reason for slow utilisation of external loans in some projects primarily has been the paucity of counterpart funds with States/implementing agencies, delay in acquisition of land and contractual issues including delay in supply of equipment and execution of actual works.

LPG Agencies

*6. SHRI R.L.P. VERMA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the name of places in Bihar for which advertisements for allocating LPG agencies appeared during the last three years;

(b) the reasons for not setting up LPG agencies there so far; and

(c) the location-wise details of inclusion of such places in marketing plan, advertisement and the dates of interview?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) to (c). The Oil Companies have advertised 130 LPG distributorships at different places in Bihar during the three years, i.e. 1993-94, 1994-95 and 1995-96.

Out of the above, selections have been held for 30 LPG distributorships, of which 24 distributorships have since been commissioned and the balance six are under different stages of development. Selections in respect of remaining 100 cases could not be made owing to non-functioning of the OSB, Bihar.

[Translation]

Power Grid in Bihar

*7. SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPPU YADAV : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Mirganj and Rupali Power Grid in Puana district is lying incomplete;

(b) whether any request has been made by the State Government of Bihar for early commissioning of this grid;

(c) whether irrigation facility is likely to be made available to lakhs of farmers by commissioning this grid;

(d) if so, the steps being taken by the Government for restarting the work on the said projects; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI) : (a) and (b). Power is supplied to Mirganj and Rupali at 11 KV from 33/11 KV power sub-station at Maranga. The 33/11 KV Sub-station at Maranga receives power from the 132/33 KV sub-station at Purnea. These sub-stations are owned and operated by the Bihar State Electricity Board (BSEB). The 33/11 KV sub-station at Mirganj was commissioned in 1981-82 and presently rectification work is under progress. Another 33/11 KV sub-station at Rupali is under construction.

No request has been received from the Government of Bihar for construction of 132/33 KV sub-stations at Mirganj and Rupali.

(c) to (e). Do not arise.

[English]

Demand and Supply of Power

*8. SHRI A. SAMPATH : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the present demand and supply of power in the country at present, State-wise;